



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

August 22, 2005

## **ICE AGENTS ARREST 2 SUSPECTED DRUG SMUGGLERS AND SEIZE 81K OF COCAINE NEAR VIEQUES, PR**

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico— U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents arrested two men and seized 81 kilograms of cocaine Friday near the island of Vieques on the eastern coast of Puerto Rico.

Pedro Delgado-Sanchez, 50, and David Armando Brito-Brito, 25, both citizens of the Dominican Republic were arrested for violations of Title 21, United States Code, sections 841 and 846.

On Aug. 19, 2005, at approximately 10 p.m., a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) patrol aircraft assigned to the Caribbean Air and Marine Branch (CAMB) with headquarters in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, detected a yola-type vessel navigating without lights approximately 13 miles southwest of St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands.

CAMB marine enforcement units in St. Thomas were immediately alerted of the suspicious vessel. At approximately 11 p.m., CBP marine officers intercepted the 24-foot “yola-type” vessel 8 miles southeast of Vieques, Puerto Rico. During the initial search, CBP officers found several bale-type packages that later tested positive for cocaine.

“Drug traffickers who think that the eastern coast of Puerto Rico is an easy way to smuggle contraband into the United States need to think it again,” said Lydia St. John-Mellado, special agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Puerto Rico. “ICE and our Department of Homeland Security partners are vigilant and will continue using all resources to stop illegal contraband from entering the United States through Puerto Rico.”

Delgado Sanchez and Brito-Brito were transferred to the Metropolitan Detention Center in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico and will appear before a U.S. magistrate judge today for formal charges.

The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial and the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

#ICE#

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*